

NOTE ON *NEPTUNEA ANTIQUA*. (Read 6th April, 1906.)—The variability of this species in form, size, and sculpture is proverbial. Jeffreys mentions four varieties, and as many as twelve monstrosities. Of the two specimens now exhibited, one is remarkable for its great size, and the other on account of its rarity as an abnormality. The largest recorded dimensions are those given by Jeffreys, who says, "Now and then giants are seen, 7 or 8 inches long," the usual average size being about half that length. The present example is exactly $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and with the protoconch (which is broken away) must have been nearly 9 inches. The other specimen is an example of the *Monstrum Babylonicum*, which was described and figured by Captain Thomas Brown as *Fusus Babylonicus* in his "Illustrations of the Recent Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland," p. 127, pl. lvii, fig. 19. He did, however, entertain some doubt of its specific distinctness, for he observed, "this shell has much the aspect of *Fusus antiquus*, and is probably only a *lusus* of that species."

He "found it on the strand, opposite Hull." The present specimen came from Billingsgate Market, and has been presented to the British Museum by Mr. E. J. Field.

Sinistral specimens of this species are very rare. Forbes and Hanley mention one as having been procured by Mr. G. B. Sowerby from off the mouth of the Thames, and the British Museum in 1843 purchased a small example said to have been found in Pegwell Bay, Kent.

Sinistral examples have been casually quoted as occurring on the English coast, but I do not find any actual records of individual specimens.

Mr. B. B. Woodward has shown me a specimen in his collection found off Hastings, and Mr. A. Reynell also possesses an example, but he does not know where it was obtained. The Rev. Canon Norman also possesses two specimens.

Mr. F. W. Harmer,¹ in a paper dealing with this species, observes: "Reversed specimens of *Neptunea antiqua* are very occasionally met with on the English coast, but except that they are left-handed, they cannot be distinguished from the right-handed shells among which they occur. The sinistral forms of Vigo Bay (*N. contraria*) are, on the contrary, materially different from the dextral species of British or Arctic seas," an opinion with which I fully concur.

E. A. SMITH.

ON THE NAME *PILSBRYELLA*, VON IBERING. (Read 6th April, 1906.)—A year ago, in the Proceedings of this Society (Vol. VI, p. 199), I proposed the name *Pilsbryella* as a section of *Tomigerus*, the paper being published in March, 1905. It has recently been brought to my notice that Herr Nierstrasz utilized the same term (Chitonen der Siboga Exped., p. 11) for a section of *Lepidopleurus*, his paper being published in January, 1905. I therefore propose to replace *Pilsbryella*, von Ihering, *non* Nierstrasz, by *Cearella*, *nom. nov.*

H. VON IHERING.

¹ Proc. Int. Congr. Zool., 1898, pp. 222-225, pl. iii.